

**GREATER YELLOWSTONE INTERAGENCY BRUCELLOSIS
COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Idaho Falls, Idaho
September 2, 1999**

Executive Committee Present:

- Kieth Aune, Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Bozeman, MT
- John Baughman, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, WY
- Bill Daniels, Bureau of Land Management, Cheyenne, WY
- Arnold Gertonson, Montana Department of Livestock, Helena, MT
- Rube Harrington, USDA, APHIS, VS, Central Region, Arlington, TX
- Bob Hillman, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Boise, ID
- Lonn Kuck, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Boise, ID
- Skip Ladd, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Denver, CO
- Jim Logan, Wyoming Livestock Board, Shoshoni, WY
- Thomas Roffe, BRD/USGS, Bozeman, MT
- Robert Schiller, Grand Teton National Park, Moose, WY

Staff:

- Becky Russell, Wyoming Game & Fish Dept., Laramie, WY
- Denise Walters, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Boise, ID

Attendees:

- Del Hensel, National Bison Association, Denver, CO
- Steve Torbit, National Wildlife Federation, Boulder, CO
- D. J. Schubert, The Fund for Animals, Glendale, AZ
- Marlowe Goble, Cattle/Bison Rancher, Alta, WY
- Robert Hendry, Wyoming Stockgrowers Assn & Rancher, Lysite, WY
- Jeanne-Marie Souvigney, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Livingston, MT
- Andrea Lococo, The Fund for Animals, Jackson, WY
- Hope Sieck, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman, MT
- Valerie Ragan, USDA, APHIS, VS, Riverdale, MD
- Lance Brower, University of Idaho, St. Anthony, ID
- Jeff Gearino, Casper Star Tribune, Green River, WY
- Keith J. Andrews, BLM, Pinedale, WY
- Thomas Linfield, Montana Dept. of Livestock, Helena, MT
- Wilber W. Clark, USDA, APHIS, VS, Helena, MT
- Diane Katzenberger, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Denver, CO
- L. Mark Stewart, USDA, APHIS, VS, Cheyenne, WY
- Mike Philo, USDA, APHIS, VS, Bozeman, MT
- Del Hensel, National Bison Assn, Commerce City, CO
- Terry Kreeger, Wyoming Game & Fish, Wheatland, WY
- Tom Thorne, Wyoming Game & Fish, Cheyenne, WY

- Caroline Kennedy, Defenders of Wildlife, Wash DC
- Lloyd Dorsey, Wyoming Wildlife Federation, Jackson, WY
- Barry Reiswig, National Elk Refuge, Jackson, WY
- Tom Bills, USFS, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson, WY
- Glen Plumb, National Park Service-Yellowstone National Park, WY
- Cindy Gaborick, USDA, APHIS, VS, Boise, ID
- Wayne Brewster, National Park Service-Yellowstone National Park, WY
- Lois Herbst, Wyoming Stockgrowers, Shoshoni, WY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Hillman who welcomed everyone. Introductions were made and guests were recognized. A request was made for updates to names, addresses, fax numbers and e-mails on the contact lists.

Dr. Hillman announced that members of the GYIBC Committee must get recognition from the Chair in order to speak. He informed the audience that the Chair will not recognize anyone for public comments until Committee Members had completed discussion on a particular topic. The Chairman also informed the audience that there would be a public comment period toward the close of the meeting and anyone wishing to comment must sign up on the sheet for public comments in the back of the room.

John Baughman informed everyone that he will be unable to attend next day.

Dr. Hillman asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda.

Jim Logan requested a brief discussion (explanation) on the meeting last June in Wyoming discussing surveillance and prevention of brucellosis pertaining to livestock.

Dr. Hillman suggested that the topic be added as the last item under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the May Minutes was brought up for discussion. Many comments have already been received but a request for any additional corrections was made.

Jim Logan replied that he had submitted written changes previously.

Denise Walters clarified that the copy in the notebook was a struck and score version with all the changes previously received.

Dr. Hillman mentioned that one option would be to add major changes and present it at the next meeting or make minor changes today.

Jim Logan commented that one thing he noticed is on the third from last page pertaining to calfhood vaccination safety. The discussion pertained to safety in non-target species. What he said had been taken out of context. He was frustrated that there is such concern about non-target species as it pertains to the vaccines but that we haven't seemed to be that concerned about how the field strain may be affecting non-target species. That particular paragraph needs to reflect that.

Dr. Hillman asked if there were any other corrections or additions? The Chair entertained the motion to approve the minutes with the struck & score changes included in the draft, Jim's changes that were recommended, and page numbers added. The corrected copy of the minutes will be sent out once the changes have been made.

Rube Harrington – Motion to approve minutes.
Arnold Gertonson – Second

All voted for approval of the minutes.

JACKSON BISON & ELK NEPA PROCESS

Bob Schiller gave a report on the August 2nd briefing in Washington with the Assistant Secretary, National Parks Service Director, Bob Stanton, Representatives from Fish & Wildlife Service as well as the Forest Service. He reported that they discussed issues and concerns related to Bison and Elk Management in the Jackson area and added that he felt the presentation was warmly received, if not sympathetic, about the concerns and needs in the Jackson area. Basically the Dept of Interior was holding options open at this time. No final decision was made. Costs, issues and timelines are being considered.

John Baughman - Following the Fund for Animals lawsuit, the judge ordered more environmental analysis on the elk feeding program on the refuge be done. Have met several times to discuss what is appropriate. Litigation is still pending. It is perhaps the most complex wildlife management situation on the planet.

Where there is very little track record of success on EA's and EIS's around the Yellowstone ecosystem perhaps something different needs to be done. Consensus is that some bigger planning EIS type effort is needed. Will have to coordinate some type of planning analysis of Yellowstone Elk and Bison which quickly grows as you start identifying the issues that are involved. Thirty major issues were identified from just once around the table. All of them large. Will need to plan the process and look forward to doing business with other agencies. Preliminary meetings have started on grizzly management with some success.

Skip Ladd – The Judge's ruling was written in such a way that additional work would need to be done before moving forward with any kind of bison hunt or removal programs. That aspect has not been appealed so can do that through extended EA or full blown EIS or not do anything. The agency is not likely to not do anything. As the bison herd grows, there will be more complication not only from potential disease standpoint but also from conflicts with elk, people and impacts on habitat on the Elk Refuge. Will have to be done and started fairly quickly.

Bob Schiller – Presentation was made to interior with Barry Reiswig. It was a good collaborative presentation.

Lloyd Dorsey – Wyoming Wildlife Federation legal process still ongoing regarding court case and the state of Wyoming has challenged a portion of that decision in Federal appeals court. They voted to remove at least the portion of that decision which enjoin public bison hunting on National Forest Lands in the Jackson Hole area. The Wyoming Wildlife Federation also filed legal brief in Federal Appeals Court. Oral arguments are going to be sometime in October.

STATUS OF YELLOWSTONE PARK MANAGEMENT EIS

Wayne Brewster - The EIS team continues to work on responses to public comments received on the draft addressing deficiencies in information and analysis that were identified. Discussions are ongoing between cooperating agencies, which will meet in late September at the Governor/Assistant Secretary level.

STATUS OF FUND FOR ANIMALS vs CLARK

Skip Ladd - The Judges ruling was that before we could go forward with removal of Bison in the Jackson herd, additional NEPA analysis needed to be done on the elk and bison feeding programs. Elk & bison management on the refuge as well as Grand Teton in terms of numbers that can be sustained in those areas and future feeding programs. If we hope to have any kind of a program to manage the bison herd, an extended NEPA analysis that addresses the overall feeding program will have to be done.

John Baughman – Oral arguments are scheduled for October 15th in Washington.

DJ Schubert – An extension on the briefing schedule requested by the Fund for Animals was not granted.

UPDATE ON WYOMING vs U.S.

John Baughman - The Judge ruled that the state of Wyoming could not sue Secretary Babbitt. Attorney Generals office will file an appeal. Looks like it will be in courts for 1 – 6 years.

TRI-STATE BRUCELLOSIS MEETING

Jim Logan – In view of this ruling hope to continue to see the resolve of the entire committee, all of the state and federal agencies stay committed and on course for funding and research to see this through since it will be a long drawn out progress. The Tri-State Brucellosis meeting was not a secret meeting. Asked for the meeting because of concerns about regionalization. An open meeting was held in June in Dubois, Wyoming to discuss surveillance, prevention, and related items as it pertains to livestock in the three-state area. Discussed the possibility of becoming more uniform but not likely since all three states have such very distinctively different situations and problems both geographically and wildlife wise. Discussed the use of RB51, adult vaccination of cattle and requirements for vaccination of cattle in the GYA. What would be the ideal prevention and surveillance system for the GYA in livestock? Copies of the agenda are available. There will be a follow-up meeting at USAHA. Trying to put together some statistics to protect selves from other states. If anyone wants to attend give name and address and will give information when available.

Bob Hillman – We have a concern as to how do we address the threat that the three states has from the rest of the country. In light of the declining level of brucellosis around the country the other states are going to be free. Must be able to address those issues effectively in order to prevent additional requirements being placed on these three states.

DJ Schubert – From the Fund for Animals perspective we completely support the efforts of the State Veterinarians and others who participated.

Jeannie-Marie Souvigney – There was a lot of discussion at that meeting about vaccination of bison outside of the park this fall. What was discussed about that issue and what are the plans?

Jim Logan – There was discussion about that but we are not in any kind of a decision-making capacity other than livestock interests in our own states. There were no decisions or more discussion other than what was at GYIBC. Those were the only topics.

Arnold Gertonson concurred.

Jim Logan – I think it is important for everybody to realize that for our livestock program we have to discuss what is happening in the wildlife community also because it will effect us.

Skip Ladd – In the Yellowstone EIS process vaccination is discussed in various alternatives. What is the context of that discussion?

Wayne Brewster – Vaccination of bison both inside and outside of the park is discussed with all alternatives in the draft. The standards developed and presented by the Technical Committee a number of meetings ago pertains to safety of vaccine in bison calves is incorporated in the draft EIS. The discussions at the last Executive & Technical meetings examined where we are on various projects. Much of the work is already done on safety of calfhood vaccination. Looking at the concern over reproductive affects later in life from calfhood vaccination. Much of the non-target work is completed and some is ongoing. Study has started but will take time. Will put together as much information as is available in the final EIS. Is under discussion as to what additional work will be needed.

Jim Logan – One thing on the agenda for the Dubois Meeting was discussion of Lab closures. Wyoming Brucellosis testing lab was to be closed. Dr. Harrington was able to help keep it open and I wanted to publicly thank him because it will be crucial in the program.

DJ Schubert – Would like to add that at the previous meeting The Fund for Animal made opposition. The public has not been given ample opportunity to respond on the vaccination program. The vaccination program is a package deal. Have to have enough information to present to public and allow them to understand the legal mandates, assess, and respond.

Wayne Brewster - The other element on vaccination is delivery systems for free ranging animals. Discussions started on evaluating and developing the technology to assess the current testing feasibility of field operations during different times of the year.

Jeannie-Marie Souvigney – Is there going to be a proposal to vaccinate bison outside of the park?

Arnold Gertonson – There are no plans at this time to make that proposal.

Lois Kurks – The Governors asked for speed. Go with the vaccine you have now. It is working on game and cattle.

Arnold Gertonson – There are lots of questions to be answered before a proposal like that can be made. Looking at data on RB51 for approval on Bison.

NEW BUSINESS

TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Terry Kreeger – (*attachment #1*)

Item 2:

Some concerns were raised as to reproduction. Compile and turn existing data over to statisticians for analysis. Two documents have conflicting interpretations.

Item 3:

In one, regulatory officials conclude that transmission was probably from wildlife to cattle. In the other report they concluded that in the absence of hard data it is unable to make any conclusion. It is just two different opinions by two separate authors. It is not appropriate for the Technical Committee to alter their opinion.

Item 4:

Subcommittee passed response unanimously that the GYIBC supports continued monitoring sampling of bison and elk populations.

Skip Ladd – Is the sampling systematic or opportunistic?

Mike Philo – Yes it is systematic. Began with protocol based on document prepared by Technical Subcommittee. The sample size was narrowed to 3-4 tissue samples.

Tom Roffe – I made motion that the GYIBC go on record as supporting activities that continue to monitor and surveil the populations of interest both elk and bison in the GYA. Mikes sampling has an approved study plan and some history. This is an important thing to keep going for this year. Next year it would need to be reevaluated.

Bob Hillman – This is not a statement that this is all we do. Some projects and areas must have more intense monitoring.

Bob Schiller – Should do a very aggressive sampling of bison and elk in GYA in checking for diseases.

Tom Roffe – It is well designed and a large percent of population sampling is done routinely each year. They are marked, known animals with known history. It is non-opportunistic.

Bob Hillman – Will do everything possible with protocol already established.

Skip Ladd – Protocols currently in place are systematic programs and will monitor brucellosis in GYA. This is not the long term trend monitoring.

Item 5:

Terry Kreeger – At the last meeting the Executive Committee had charged the Technical Subcommittee with developing wording on a resolution something to the effect that once a vaccine has been developed it will be employed. The Technical Subcommittee is not the body that should develop wording and is kicking it back to the Executive Committee.

John Baughman – Dan Huff made the motion. The Technical Subcommittee could get a technically sound draft of the resolution that the Executive Committee could take action on. Would prefer Technical Subcommittee to make draft because of their expertise.

Rube Harrington – Is it possible to review the charge that was given to the Technical Subcommittee?

Tom Roffe – It pertains to policy and direction rather than technical. Don't know how to change the resolution technically.

John Baughman – Refer back to Terry to coordinate staffing to develop a draft resolution.

Terry Kreeger – The proposed wording states that once a vaccine has been determined to be safe for a target species, responsible wildlife management agencies may administer the vaccine, as they deem appropriate.

John Baughman – Dan was looking for more of a resolution. Hate to speak for Dan but the intent was to get a recommendation that vaccines be implemented. Maybe take it up at the next meeting.

Wayne Brewster – The Technical Committee has produced a document that describes the element as per safety. The difficulty was what would it mean? Every representative has authority to decide to use the vaccine under his or her jurisdiction.

Bob Hillman – Let's table this until we can visit with Dan. The Technical Subcommittee can bring advice and recommendations rather than a resolution to the Executive Committee.

Rube Harrington – Just remove the word resolution and put recommendations

Bob Hillman – Can the Technical Subcommittee provide some collective agreement for when and how a vaccine might be used?

Terry Kreeger – Can make a recommendation with a collective agreement.

Bob Hillman – Put together a subcommittee with perhaps John, Skip, Dan, Tom, Arnold to put something together for consideration at the next meeting.

Skip Ladd – Use Technical members also.

Item 6:

Terry Kreeger - Seven subcommittees were formed in the past to look at past, current and needed research or projects and provide a written report a month before the next meeting. What to look at in the future? Can check to see what has been done and needs no further action. Would ask the Executive Committee to keep in mind and advise.

Skip Ladd – These committees will just compile and advise, is this correct?

Terry Kreeger – Yes.

I&E SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Thorne – Most important is who the members are; only four people will admit to being members,

Diane Katzenberger, Tom Bills, John Chatburn, and myself. Encourage each agency to have a representative. We need more members. If it's not important enough to appoint members and make sure they will work then suggest considering getting rid of the I&E Subcommittee. Cannot function with just four people.

Bob Hillman – It is a very valid point. If names not on list please advise.

Rube Harrington – I would like to nominate Mike Philo.

Bob Hillman – Not all agencies are represented; please think about whom you have that can serve in that capacity. We all agree that the function of the I&E Subcommittee is critically important.

Bill Daniels – I will nominate Larry Dove from BLM.

Tom Thorne – Please consider and find a few more people. We appreciate the help we get from the Technical Subcommittee members.

Tom Thorne discussed the GYIBC Information Plan that was adopted in May of 1997. Reviewed 26 different objectives with the Technical Committee and have accomplished a lot. Twelve have been done or are ongoing; ten are being addressed or are not needed at this time, some of which are inappropriate. Four will be addressed right away or in the near future. Representatives of the Subcommittee are going to meet with Game & Fish Hunter Education Coordinators to develop a short information document on zoonotic potential of brucellosis. Will first discuss how information would be used if made available. Will begin to circulate GYIBC newsletter. If you see an article or news clip about brucellosis or related things in the Yellowstone area please send articles to Tom c/o of Connie Koossner. One ongoing objective is to encourage new members. Goal C-pertains to possibility of a programmatic EIS. Elected to consider that a deleted goal at this time. Another ongoing objective is to occasionally put out news releases. Am making a plea to members that if you see something that is appropriate for a news release from the GYIBC bring it to his attention and if members of the public want more information please advise.

The funding video was started about a year and half ago. The intent is to be short and used to make point that there is a problem with brucellosis and GYIBC is the appropriate group to address it and it needs funding. Diane led and wrote the script which was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. Game & Fish videographers produced it. It is a good job for the intended purposes (for congressional staffers to get funding). It does have a few errors.

The video was shown after which were the following comments:

Tom Thorne – The minor errors aren't important for who it is intended and doesn't effect the overall message. Changes could be difficult, if it gets out of sequence they would have to redo the whole video. Need to decide to adopt as is and use it with errors fixed as quickly as possible or not use until changes are made but can't make promises on how soon it will be done.

Arnold Gertonson - The opening sequence with the shooting puts a negative aspect on this. Don't know if it is really necessary. Could at least cut that part out.

Tom Thorne – It's a good way to attract their attention. It clearly is negative, but it was intended to be in the sense that that will drive people unfamiliar with this that there is a problem.

Diane Katzenberger -It is very visual and gets their attention quickly that there is a problem.

Lonn Kuck – One area that needs clarification is the statement that the GYIBC is planning to eliminate by 2010 when the goal is to plan for the elimination.

Bill Daniels - I think the footage was excellent and needs to show the negative aspect too. For congressional emphasis needs to be on what our needs are. Perhaps can add more as we have the opportunity. If there is something to look at with it at the time you view it, it would be better.

Cindy Gaborick - Once it is released you don't know where it will go.

Tom Thorne – For the most part it will only go with a GYIBC staff person and don't anticipate wide spread usage.

Wilbur Clark – Video is very good, for those that don't know need to spotlight significant areas with a map and why geographical area is significant.

Tom Thorne - We have to keep in mind that there is only so much we can do in 5-7 minutes. If you put a lot of spots on the map then you have to explain what they are and lose a lot of time.

Rube Harrington - Would like to give thanks to Tom and his group. From our perspective we are okay with it.

Skip Ladd - It's a good opener to discussions with congressionals or other people. Once you produce anything like this you have to accept the notion that it might be used anywhere by anybody. My view would be to just try it. Worth trying with some local congressional offices and get their reaction.

Keith Aune - Have a concern or two. One is with the opening of shooting the bison; the implication is that it was killing bison that was the source of this problem. It is not the source but the result. The order is still not adequate to explain how this problem evolved. There are too many bison for that park so they have to leave even on not severe winters. That is not fully explored.

Bill Daniels - GYIBC is set up to deal with controversial issues in the GYA. The interest in the video is to show we need some support. Not intended to show fault, simply that brucellosis exists and there are issues to deal with and we need support from congress to do so.

Keith Aune - One of the issues is the numbers of bison and elk exceeding the capacity of the land. It's an issue that there is a disease and that is missed. Does not show what the needs are.

Bill Daniels – Need materials to go with it when showing video.

Keith Aune - Will be impossible to control what audience sees it.

Rob Hendry-Several concerns. Wish there was more time to talk about the disease, undulant fever was mentioned one time. That is really why we had brucellosis eradicated in the United States. Congressional people do not understand that. That is why we want to be rid of brucellosis. This is the last reservoir left. Doesn't mention how many died a slow starvation death. Once the video is out, it will be available for public use. Governors may want to see it before it is released.

Lance Brower- This is a hook and not meant to answer all questions. You could pick it to death but it gets attention. All the facts that have been brought in are good but can present facts after hooked.

DJ Schubert - There are several inaccuracies. Bottom line is the reason for public controversy is not because of brucella abortus from a non-livestock perspective but because the animals are being either shot, captured, or slaughtered. The idea of taking out that aspect is wrong.

Arnold Gertonson - The placement is wrong. Right away you are putting a negative on this. Have to identify the negative on this and be up front but not at the start of the video.

Wayne Brewster - Examples show why this issue is so contentious and why progress is so difficult. The implication that the management goal should be to eliminate enough bison so they don't come out. Realistically that means eradication of bison on the northern range. Went through that in 50s and 60s. Statements like that do severe damage. Implication is that you should go into Yellowstone and eliminate bison and elk. These statements are disturbing. The statements about the hundreds that starved. There was about 300 winterkill. That occurred throughout all three states that winter. These statements can do severe damage.

DJ Schubert - All agree that it is a negative image for different reasons. It certainly is a hook. It is real. It is not staged. It is actual footage. Don't agree with reasons but need a hook and it is real. No one likes to see those types of images.

Lois Kurks - Do you have to have the approval from the three State Governors before showing any congressional staffers? Overgrazing is so bad in Lamar Valley that it may never recover. At a hearing in Bozeman with Secretary Babbitt, one man said he had never seen such an overgrazed area as Lamar valley. I toured the park with the SRM group and also went with park officials. Not real knowledgeable but can listen and observe and go to the facts and figures. I feel it is overgrazed and the park is being hurt. The federal agencies that were there felt park officials are not held to the same standards. Would want to see Governors approve the film first.

Keith Aune - The video does not clearly define the problem to congressional folks. A creative artist can enter in some of these other elements with a few short changes in language. Need to fully disclose to them the complexity of the problem and not focus it totally on the fact that management has had to emphasize disease control. The EIS is a bison management program not a brucellosis control program. There's not a lot of discussion about bison and elk exiting the parks or why they are exiting the parks, which only adds a few more statements. It's been difficult to come up with a good management strategy so we don't have to continue to shoot them as they exit the park.

Jim Logan - Would make a motion that in view of the comments and concerns that we have heard, it would be wise for the Executive Committee to recommend to the I&E Subcommittee to go back and change the script to more accurately depict the total situation based on the comments heard today.

Arnold Gertonson seconded.

John Baughman - Suggest that maybe Tom's committee comes up with some speaking points that might accompany this video that perhaps might help people feel more comfortable.

Skip Ladd - This motion implies we are going to do surgery on this. Is it major or a fairly quick turnaround to make some modifications that will reflect some of these comments but not start from ground zero?

Tom Thorne - If its more than a minor change in the script, it won't be a quick turnaround.

Skip Ladd - Does the group feel the tone and comments can be done in a way that can be quickly turned around?

Tom Thorne - If changing the order of the video, it is a major rewrite and will be looking at quite a bit of time.

Bob Schiller - What is the need for congressional offices? To be brought up to date or orient toward some of our problems?

Diane Katzenberger - This is an accompanying piece. This is to put your foot in the door, this is the GYIBC, we've got problems, we need more research and we need money for it. If you put statements for everyone's special interests it will never get done. If you have to go to Governors, than basically this group can't even decide on a video. We can rewrite the script as long as it isn't anything major.

Keith Aune - What would be the finish date to have this product ready for use at the next congressional budget cycle?

Diane Katzenberger - Budgets start this fall. Needs to be in districts offices, DC, etc, so they know when they see a budget they know who GYIBC is. Probable need to have in their hands no later than late fall.

Skip Ladd - Late fall on would be appropriate. They will really start meeting and discussing these issues when they come back from their January recess.

Diane Katzenberger - Should be getting face to face in February. Introduction to be revised by fall.

Mike Philo - There are three elements. The herd is infected with brucellosis, it comes out of the park, and bison are being shot and slaughtered. Which problem affects them the most? Bison being shot and slaughtered. It needs to be there and emphasized.

Steve Torbitt - Would like to remind the Committee that the MOU has nothing to do with the kind of wildlife management that occurs in the parks goals or establishing population, it has to do with management of brucellosis. Will need public support to get money. Encourage to look at brucellosis issue.

Jim Logan - There needs to be very strict control of who sees the video and where it goes. Needs a supporting audio that is consistent to go with it, explaining the concerns, then might be okay as an alternative to motion.

Lonn Kuck - We need to accommodate the Governors direction and move this year.

Keith Aune - Subcommittee is going to address population dynamics. Federal agencies cannot carry this to get additional funding, so who is going to do that? If the Governors will carry, it would be good for them to see it.

Diane Katzenberger - It is a formal presentation. As far as public use, you can put a runner on the bottom stating it is not intended for public use. Can also put on the beginning that the specific intention of this is to inform Congressional Districts about GYIBC.

Skip Ladd - If there is a budget proposal in the Presidents budget, then federal agencies have a leeway to discuss and describe what's in the Presidents budget, this might be an opening to do that. If not in the Presidents budget than non-federal members of this Committee should sit down with key members or their staff with a hand out of key points and needs. Let it go at that. Just trying to get their attention that there is a problem.

Jeanne-Marie Souvigny - Cannot restrict use of video or keep from the public. Sending video to elected officials who are elected by the public. Have to expect that if video gets out, it will be picked apart and used. The narrative is important and has to be accurate.

Skip Ladd - Any video or document needs to identify a targeted audience. It is not limited to that, it is still available to anybody that wants it. The message needs to be clear and not be embarrassing to us when it gets out to others. People will pick it apart however it comes out.

Del Hensel - Video is best tool yet to educate. Redo so it can be used. Educating the rest of us that don't know everything that is going on.

Bill Daniels - Needs to be done and used in the next few months. If we are going to get a budget for this Committee we need to get it to congressional offices soon.

John Baughman - Do minor surgery now. See what can be done in a quick turnaround.

Tom Thorne - Will check into next week as to how long it will take to do minor surgery.

Jim Logan - Motion that if on the audio can incorporate the concerns that have been brought forth. Still doesn't address the beginning footage. If it can be altered, it would be a better film.

Tom Thorne - Might be major to change footage and think we lose some of the effectiveness if we do that. Can show vaccinating or testing cattle but won't grab the way the shooting of the bison does.

Bob Hillman - To paraphrase, request I&E Subcommittee to modify the script and video based on comments received and bring back for reevaluation. Need to identify major issues that Executive Committee has with the video.

Bill Daniels - propose to modify audio portions of video but not the footage. Amend motion to change the audio portion to try to address the issues that have been brought up with the video, leave the footage as it is, and try to put back together in as short a period of time as possible and readdress as soon as possible.

Rube Harrington seconded.

The amendment is approved.

Tom Thorne - Will make minor fixes in the narrative portion and send video to everyone, than can collectively discuss by phone.

All voted in favor of amended motion.

Tom Thorne - Please give concerns to him as soon as possible in writing.

Bill Daniels - Suggest reshowing the video at the end of the meeting today.

DISCUSSION ON THE NEWSLETTER

The feeling of the group on the newsletter was that we should do our own. The Subcommittee chose the topics and the authors. A subcommittee chair and a review committee reviewed them. The Executive Committee initially reviewed topics. The process was slow and raised questions. An Executive Committee member wanted to add a sentence that was out of context but compromised. Late articles didn't fit but will be in another newsletter later. Mostly it is pretty much ready to go. The process used to produce the newsletter was reviewed. The newsletter will be semi-annual. Would like to add a Chair & a Vice-Chair to help review the newsletter since they represent federal and state agencies. Depending on technology involved will have journalist review for language usage and will print amounts requested. Authors will do the best they can to be fair. When expressing different opinions must be stressed that there are different opinions without being too biased and must also fix any inaccuracies. We can control these and still keep it reasonable. It was recommended to include the authors affiliation behind his name on individual articles, that way if there are any bias there, the reader will at least know what agency that individual is coming from. Want to change the masthead to indicate volume and issue. Will include web-site address so readers that have additional questions or comments has someplace they can go with comments. Will include a statement of purpose that says what this newsletter is all about and states that it does not reflect the opinion of individual agencies. The statement of purpose will say "The GYIBC is a Multi State and federal interagency effort to collectively identify and implement equitable solutions to concerns about Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area. The Purpose of this newsletter is to disseminate factual information but not necessarily consensus opinion of the GYIBC member agencies. For further information and back issues please contact the GYIBC at www.nps.gov/gyibc." Would like endorsement on statement of purpose as part of the masthead from the Executive Committee.

Arnold Gertonson made a motion to proceed with doing a Newsletter.

Tom Roffe seconded.

Skip Ladd - The newsletter is a good vehicle to get information out to the public. Has been one of the issues since the beginning of this Committee that a lot of information isn't getting out to interest groups and the public in general.

Bill Daniels - No doubt we need a newsletter and the first one will be extremely important. It provides basic information about us and shows credibility.

Bob Schiller – Has there been any discussion about cost per newsletter?

Tom Thorne - There is some information in the minutes of the Technical Subcommittee. Estimates for 2,000 of the two-color issue would cost \$794; 5,000 would cost \$1,136 and 10,000 would be \$1,731. Each committee member would let him know how many were needed and he would send invoices. It depends on the amount printed. If mailing lists are coordinated it would eliminate duplicate mailings.

Bob Hillman – We have a motion to produce the newsletter.

All in favor. Motion carried. We will produce a newsletter.

Bob Hillman – Now we need to discuss the endorsement of process, approval of the statement of purpose, and then whether to go forward with this particular draft with the minor corrections identified.

John Baughman – The process sounds fine. Try to be as factual and objective as possible.

Wayne Brewster - Will extend the review time as we get the next issues laid out. Members have to start thinking about articles that they want as one comes off the presses; you need to have two laid out already.

Skip Ladd - I think the suggestion to add the agency associated with the authors is good. The statement of purpose is good. The point being this is a vehicle to get information out that is accumulated by the different agencies. In statement of purpose it has to be articulated that this is not an endorsement by the GYIBC and each agency has its own views. We don't want to stifle anything but we want people to understand that there may be opposing views. Most articles should be new information about activities that are going on rather than agency policy kinds of things. If review or editorial board is a fair representation of the various interests on this committee it is the best we can hope for.

Jim Logan made a motion to approve the statement of purpose.

Keith Aune seconded.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Bob Hillman – We have endorsed the process, we approved the statement of purpose, the thing we need now is approval to go forward with the changes identified and goes forward with publication.

Tom Thorne - The back page has no return address and we cannot get bulk mailing without a return address. Do we want to put one common address for all GYIBC or leave blank and each agency put their own return address. If one common address should be Bobs or mine as Chairs.

Bill Daniels - Is it a problem to use Game & Fish address or would it look as if they are representing the agency?

John Baughman - Personal preference would like to put Chairman's name and address.

Bob Hillman - I have no problem with that if it is the wish of the Committee. Do we need a to vote on that if its okay with everyone? We voted on the statement of purpose, and having a newsletter, we approved the process but we did not actually vote on the process. Do we need a motion on the process to say we approve the process that Tom outlined for generating the articles, review of the articles, and moving them through to the final printing or do we just do it and agree that is how it is going to be?

Skip Ladd - I have a question on the process. We agreed to have a review committee, right?

Tom Thorne -Yes. You will be putting your trust right now in Bob & Bill and then with the Subcommittee Review Committee also. If you want to add names to review, can do that, but the more people the longer it will take.

Skip Ladd - How do we insure that articles are what we want in here?

Tom Thorne - The topics and the authors for future articles will be reviewed at regular meetings.

Skip Ladd - That would be good. We just have to try it and apply adapted management. If there are concerns we have to readdress it at a later time.

Bob Hillman – What I am hearing is that we will go forward with the process Tom described.

Tom Thorne -Again we really would like to have all the agencies have somebody on this committee.

Steve Torbit- Just a request, if possible can public be notified of upcoming meetings in the newsletter?

Tom Thorne -We intend to put the Newsletter on the web-site. If everyone wants to send me their mailing lists we'd be willing to review them and consolidate the lists so some people aren't getting six newsletters.

Jeannie-Marie Souvigney - Might be worthwhile to tell people they can find certain information on the web page.

Bob Hillman - When do you need to know how many?

Tom Thorne -By the middle of this month.

Bob Hillman - Need to let Tom know how many copies within the next two weeks and Wyoming Game & Fish will bill each agency for those copies.

DISCUSSION OF THE GYIBC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Hillman - It is lengthy but fulfills the requests received by the Governors and Undersecretary Barry that the Strategic Plan be goal driven. Our finished product should be a blueprint. Tried to format the draft along the lines of the budget proposal that had been developed and submitted to USDA and Interior. Broke it into several parts, planning & compliance, implementation, research, GYIBC operations and identified issues that we had not been able to resolve. It provides a proposed budget. Originally had GYIBC operations at front followed by research. Changed the format at the request of several members. Put research & GYIBC operations at the end. Draft calls for the GYIBC to take actions at this meeting and the formation of a working fiscal group. After discussion with several members, decided it is inappropriate to do prior to approval of the draft plan. Also put some time lines in draft plan. Must have project finished by January 2000. Would ask if any persons on subcommittees have comments?

Skip Ladd - One of the things we wrestled with was making a shorter list. There is a lot of controversy. It's hard to pin down immediate action items, some would require planning and public involvement. We came out with a compromise. Proceeded with whatever public involvement was needed. They are hard hitting action items.

Bob Schiller - Dangers of laundry list is compliance and policy issues. Some items not feasible on short term or policy basis. For example, vaccination issue at Grand Teton is still 5 years away. Not sure it is an action item.

Bob Hillman – Don't have to change draft a great deal to maybe add a statement at the beginning to say this is a laundry list and may not be applicable to all herd unit management plans.

Bill Daniels - It is a dynamic document that will change. Actions will take place to move us toward our ultimate goal. I would say it is a starting point.

Arnold Gertonson - Can be used by the Governors as an appendix or use as they wish for funding purposes. Gives them an option to choose where they want to go with this process.

Tom Roffe- It states that we have herd unit management plans that will be evaluated and developed. Don't have to be concerned that it will be interpreted as saying we will do X, Y or Z.

Bob Hillman - Any other opening or general comments relative to what we were trying to accomplish? Need to decide do we want to go a page at a time and make suggested amendments to it rather than skip through it back and forth.

Committee discussed, reviewed & amended the Strategic Plan and Budget. Chairman, Bob Hillman, will incorporate changes into a new draft to be submitted for review and approval at the December Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Hillman - Is there any other new business? We are now down to public comments. It is important that the public should be able to make comments.

Steve Torbit - In regard to the last meeting with the Governors to hurry-up and get things done, the Committee has gotten a lot of things done. Hope the hurry up will also apply to Montana Yellowstone EIS. Would like to thank Bob for including public comments. Tom spent a lot of time trying to get things done. Try to get all meeting announcements about brucellosis out earlier and more quickly on the web, such as Tri-State, Cheyenne, etc. The Wildlife Federation would like to make a presentation from the wildlife point of view and invite Dr. Hillman to attend a national meeting and address as State Veterinarian in one of the GYA states.

DJ Schubert - Many comments are similar. Thanks for keeping the public involved. Public involvement is a key. The public has not been allowed in decisions on vaccination or on eradicating bacteria and its not just Fund for Animals perspective.

Lois Kurks - Want to thank also. It's very easy to do a tape that would be honest. Any college kid could do it. It should be shown to the Governors.

Rob Hendry-Would like to thank you for having the opportunity for public input. Must be very frustrating. In my perspective it seems real slow. This issue is pretty important to the livestock industry and not only to these three states. This disease can blow up in a heartbeat. That's why we have eradication problems. The video with a little make over could probably pass. Can't speak for Montana but they would probably rather not kill bison. The narration at the beginning could mention that and highlight undulant fever. It doesn't hit it hard enough. Would be good to say it is rare now and this is why. The livestock industry and APHIS have taken it out.

Bob Hillman - Any other business? Thank you for your hard work and patience.

Skip Ladd - Thank you Chairman for your diligence.

Tom Thorne – Will show video again.

Bob Hillman called for motion to adjourn.

Motion made & seconded.

Meeting Adjourned.